

20 March 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM : DCI  
SUBJECT : Intelligence Precis

USSR: The first D class ballistic missile submarine is expected to become operational this year. The USSR, however, may have an incentive to stop producing the D class submarine and follow it with another class carrying more missiles.

So far, two D class submarines have been launched. The first one, launched in late 1971, should finish its sea trials this spring.

--It carries 12 [ ] ballistic missiles with a <sup>demonstrated</sup> range of [ ] nautical miles.

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--The range of the missile will greatly increase the potential patrol zone of the D class over the Y class, and complicate western antisubmarine defenses.

In comparison, the Y class, of which there are now [ ] operational, first appeared in 1966.

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--It carries [ ] ballistic missiles with a range of [ ] nautical miles.

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--Four Y class units are continuously on missile patrol, three off the US east coast and one off the west coast.

Under the Interim Agreement, the USSR can build up to 62 modern ballistic missile submarines with 950 submarine ballistic missile launchers.

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[ ]  
We have no evidence of just how the Soviets will elect to exercise their options. If they desire to approach the number of launchers permitted by the treaty, they will have to cease producing the 12 tube D class submarines and start producing a new class with 16 or more tubes, presumably incorporating [ ] a follow-on missile.

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A large new construction hall at Severodvinsk shipyard near Murmansk may bear on this question. The new hall was begun in 1970 and may be ready for use in 1974. We do not know how the new hall will be used.

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--One possibility is that the Soviets will cease construction of the D class by 1975 and that the new hall will be used for construction of a new class of ballistic missile submarines.

--The first unit of a new class could be launched at the earliest by 1977.

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